

Timeline for Medicare Part D

Month	Date	Year	Activity
July	1	2005	Low-income individuals who want extra help can either apply online at www.medicare.gov or request that an application be mailed to their home.
July		2005	A resource guide produced by CMS titled <i>Your Guide to Medicare Prescription Drug Plans</i> , is available by calling 1-800-MEDICARE or visiting www.medicare.gov
August		2005	The SSA starts to notify low-income applicants that qualified for extra help.
September		2005	The SSA and CMS distribute an initial enrollment package to Medicare beneficiaries. Medigap insurance companies send notices to policyholders with information about their drug coverage options
October		2005	Individuals enrolled in both Medicare and Medicaid receive notices concerning auto-enrollment in a Medicare drug plan. A web tool comparing Prescription Drug Plans (PDP) and Medical Advantage plans (MA) for each region is available at www.medicare.gov or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE. Employers and unions with a prescription drug plan will notify retirees of changes to their plan. The handbook <i>Medicare and You 2006</i> , which provides information about the changes to Medicare, is mailed to all Medicare beneficiaries.
November	15	2005	Medicare beneficiaries can start to enroll in prescription drug plans by calling the provider directly or dialing 1-800-MEDICARE.
December	31	2005	The last day a person can enroll in a prescription drug plan and still receive coverage on January 1, 2006.
January	1	2006	Prescription drug coverage begins. Medicare drug coverage for individuals automatically enrolled starts.
May	15	2006	Last day to enroll in a prescription drug plan without incurring a late enrollment penalty.